

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants have amended claim 1 to indicate that the sheeting has seam tape along a first edge and a portion (the remaining portion) of the membrane sheeting has no seam tape. This portion then is folded upon itself so that it does not overlie any area of the membrane sheeting having seam tape adhered thereto. Claims 2 and 3 were amended to reference "portion" as opposed to "second edge". A new claim 6 was added, dependent on claim 1, where it indicates that the portion is folded upon the membrane sheeting so that a second edge is adjacent the seam tape which is on the first edge.

Claim 5 was amended to indicate that the seam tape was adhered to only the first edge.

New claim 6 is dependent on claim 1 and recites the second edge resting adjacent the seam tape.

Claim 4 was objected to under 35 U.S.C. §112 because of the use of the term "EPDM". EPDM is an acronym for ethylene propylene diene monomer terpolymer rubber. But, ethylene propylene diene monomer terpolymer rubber is commonly referred to as "EPDM", and, one skilled in the art would refer to this material as EPDM. Referring to this material as EPDM would not confuse one skilled in the art. A copy of page 90 of Whittington's Dictionary of Plastics is attached to support this. Therefore, this term should be acceptable.

Claims 1 to 4 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 in light of the Tuoriniemi reference. This patent discloses a masking tape. The Examiner referred to figure 11c

wherein the masking tape includes adhesive on two edges, 22a and 22b. A release surface 24a and 24b is applied to the opposite side. The Examiner considered the second edge to be 22b and considered the pressure sensitive adhesive layer 22a to be the seam tape. Applicants have amended claim 1 to indicate that the seam tape is only along one edge. The Tuoriniemi reference has the pressure sensitive adhesive on both edges. Applicants claim folding the portion that does not have any seam tape over on itself. This clearly distinguishes over the disclosure in the Tuoriniemi reference.

The purpose of applicants' invention is to roll a membrane that has seam tape along one edge to provide a uniform roll. The seam tape, obviously, adds thickness along one edge. If one simply rolls the membrane, the diameter of one side of the roll would be twice the diameter of the other side. By folding the sheeting upon itself toward that seam tape, the cross sectional thickness of the folded sheet remains the same. Thus, the diameter of the roll is uniform. This is very important for shipping.

The Tuoriniemi reference does not provide or disclose this benefit. The portion shown as 32 in figure 11c is a triple thickness of material. When this is rolled up, it will not have an even cross sectional configuration. By putting the adhesive on both sides, they have created a structure that does not, and will not, work in the present invention.

It would be unobvious to modify the disclosure in this reference as it would totally defeat the purpose of the reference. Apparently, that area that has the double thickness is required to be folded upon itself so that, when it is rolled, the adhesive layer

will contact the release portion 24a. Figures 11a to 11c are all different methods of rolling. Figure 11a shows an alternate way of forming the masking tape, but does not disclose folding of the masking tape.

Claim 5 was not the subject of any rejection in the previous Office Action. Applicants, however, have amended claim 5 to indicate that there is seam tape applied only along one edge. This should clearly distinguish it from the Tuoriniemi reference.

Finally, claim 6 was added, dependent on claim 1, and simply claims that the portion without any seam tape is folded adjacent the first edge having the seam tape. This is shown in the drawing and should not constitute new matter.

In light of the above, application would request reconsideration of the outstanding Office Action, and allowance of the pending claims.

Respectfully submitted,

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By



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